

Message Text

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INFO OCT-01 EA-02 ADP-00 SSO-00 /005 R

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DRAFTED BY:S/S-O:RMWRIGHT

APPROVED BY:S/S-O:RODERICK WRIGHT

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO USLO PEKING IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 167322

FOL SENT ALL DIPLOMATIC AND CONSULAR POSTS NOUAKCHOTT AUG.
22, 1973 FROM SECSTATE WASHDC REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

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INFORM CONSULS

E.O. 11652: N.A.

TAGS: OGEN

SUBJ: XXX

FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE SECRETARY

TEXT FOLLOW OF MY RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE AND
PRESIDENT'S LETTER OF ACCEPTANCE.

BEGIN TEXT SECRETARY'S LETTER: DEAR MR. PRESIDENT: I
HEREWITH SUBMIT MY RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE EFFEC-
TIVE SEPTEMBER 3, 1973.

BECAUSE OF OUR PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP WHICH HAS EXTENDED OVER
SUCH A LONG PERIOD OF TIME I TAKE THIS ACTION WITH A BIT OF
SADNESS. YOU WILL RECALL, THOUGH, THAT WHEN I ACCEPTED
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THE POST I DID IT WITH A FIRM RESOLVE TO RETURN TO THE

PRIVATE PRACTICE OF THE LAW AT THE END OF YOUR FIRST TERM OF OFFICE. HOWEVER, BECAUSE OF SEVERAL PRESSING MATTERS, PARTICULARLY THE CLOSING PHASE OF OUR INVOLVEMENT IN THE WAR IN VIET-NAM, AN UNCERTAIN CEASE-FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST, THE INITIAL PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE AND THE NEED FOR IMMEDIATE ATTENTION TO OUR RELATIONS WITH NATO, CENTO, JAPAN, SOUTH KOREA AND OUR LATIN AMERICAN ALLIES IT WAS AGREED THAT I SHOULD STAY ON FOR

AWHILE.

NOW THAT THE UNITED STATES HAS ENDED ITS LONG WAR IN INDOCHINA; THAT THE CEASE-FIRE IN THE MIDDLE EAST HAS HAD ITS THIRD ANNIVERSARY; THAT THE FIRST PHASE OF THE CONFERENCE ON SECURITY AND COOPERATION IN EUROPE HAS ENDED SATISFACTORILY; AND THAT OUR RELATIONS WITH OUR ALLIES AS WELL AS WITH THE SOVIET UNION AND THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA ARE ON A GOOD BASIS I BELIEVE THE TIME IS RIGHT FOR A CHANGE.

IT HAS BEEN A GREAT PRIVILEGE AND HONOR TO SERVE THE NATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE DURING THE LAST FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS. UNDER YOUR STRONG AND EFFECTIVE LEADERSHIP THE CONDUCT OF OUR FOREIGN AFFAIRS HAS BEEN MARKED WITH EXTRAORDINARY SUCCESS. BECAUSE OF YOUR POLICIES, INITIATIVE AND RESOLVE, AND THE LOYAL SUPPORT AND ASSISTANCE OF MANY OTHERS INCLUDING THOSE IN THE STATE DEPARTMENT WITH WHOM I HAVE BEEN PRIVILEGED TO BE ASSOCIATED, THE WORLD IS A MUCH MORE PEACEFUL PLACE THAN IT WAS FOUR AND ONE-HALF YEARS AGO.

UNDER YOUR LEADERSHIP WE ARE ON THE WAY TO CONSTRUCTING A STRUCTURE OF INTERNATIONAL RELATIONSHIPS WHICH GIVES HOPE OF PROVIDING PEACE AND STABILITY FOR FUTURE GENERATIONS. IT IS THE COMPLETION OF THIS TASK ESPECIALLY WHICH IS SO IMPORTANT TO ALL MANKIND AND WHICH WILL CONTINUE TO COMMAND GREAT PUBLIC SUPPORT DURING THE REMAINDER OF YOUR TERM.

PLEASE ACCEPT MY THANKS AND DEEP APPRECIATION FOR GIVING ME THE OPPORTUNITY TO SERVE THE COUNTRY DURING THESE
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CRITICAL AND IMPORTANT YEARS IN OUR NATION'S HISTORY. ADELE JOINS ME IN SENDING YOU AND PAT OUR WARMEST PERSONAL REGARDS. RESPECTFULLY, WILLIAM P. ROGERS END TEXT.

BEGIN TEXT PRESIDENT'S LETTER: DEAR BILL: IT IS WITH THE GREATEST RELUCTANCE AND REGRET THAT I ACCEPT YOUR RESIGNATION AS SECRETARY OF STATE.

I CANNOT DO SO WITHOUT THINKING BACK GRATEFULLY ON OUR QUARTER CENTURY OF CLOSE PERSONAL FRIENDSHIP, ON THE BATTLES WE HAVE FOUGHT TOGETHER AND THE CRISES WE HAVE WEATHERED TOGETHER, AND ON YOUR UNWAVERING GOOD SPIRITS, GOOD JUDGMENT AND GOOD SENSE.

I VIVIDLY RECALL THAT YOU WERE THE FIRST PERSON I TURNED TO FOR ADVICE AND COUNSEL AFTER RECEIVING THE TERRIBLE NEWS OF PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S HEART ATTACK IN 1955, AND I RECALL HOW MUCH YOUR CALM, REASONED ENCOURAGEMENT MEANT

TO ME AS I SOUGHT TO DO WHAT WAS RIGHT IN THE COURSE OF THAT ORDEAL. BUT THAT WAS ONLY ONE OF MANY TIMES, BEFORE AND SINCE, WHEN I HAVE INSTINCTIVELY TURNED TO YOU FOR ADVICE AND RELIED HEAVILY ON YOUR JUDGMENT AT THOSE CRITICAL MOMENTS THAT ARE THE TRUEST TEST NOT ONLY OF AN ASSOCIATE'S FRIENDSHIP, BUT ALSO OF HIS CHARACTER.

FEW MEN HAVE GIVEN SO MUCH OF THEMSELVES TO THEIR COUNTRY AS YOU HAVE, WITH YOUR EIGHT YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE AS DEPUTY ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ATTORNEY GENERAL IN PRESIDENT EISENHOWER'S ADMINISTRATION, AND NOW HAVING CARRIED THE HEAVY RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE FOR FOUR AND A HALF YEARS AT A PARTICULARLY CRUCIAL TIME IN THE EVOLUTION OF THE NATION'S FOREIGN POLICIES. THROUGHOUT, YOUR SERVICE HAS BEEN COMPLETELY DEDICATED AND COMPLETELY SELFLESS. THE NATION OWES YOU AN ENORMOUS DEBT OF GRATITUDE.

AS SECRETARY OF STATE, YOU HAVE REPRESENTED THIS COUNTRY ABROAD WITH GREAT SKILL. YOU HAVE PLAYED AN HISTORIC ROLE IN THE FORMULATION AND EXECUTION OF THOSE POLICIES WHICH I BELIEVE, AND I KNOW YOU BELIEVE, CAN AT LONG LAST UNCLASSIFIED

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PRODUCE A STRUCTURE OF PEACE IN THE WORLD THAT WILL ENDURE LONG INTO THE FUTURE, AND THAT WILL MAKE IT POSSIBLE FOR DIFFERENCES AMONG NATIONS TO BE SETTLED AT THE NEGOTIATING TABLE RATHER THAN ON THE BATTLEFIELD. THIS IS AN ACHIEVEMENT OF WHICH YOU SHOULD BE IMMENSELY PROUD, JUST AS I AM IMMENSELY PROUD OF THE VITAL CONTRIBUTION YOU HAVE MADE TO IT.

NOT ONLY IN FOREIGN POLICY, BUT ALSO ON THE WIDE RANGE OF OTHER ISSUES ON WHICH I HAVE SOUGHT YOUR ADVICE, IT HAS ALWAYS BEEN GIVEN WITH CANDOR AND COURAGE AND WITH EXCEPTIONAL INSIGHT. I HAVE APPRECIATED THIS GREATLY, AND THE NATION IS MUCH THE BETTER FOR YOUR SERVICE -- SERVICE WHICH I KNOW HAS BEEN AT GREAT PERSONAL SACRIFICE.

PAT JOINS ME IN WISHING YOU AND ADELE THE VERY BEST IN THE
YEARS AHEAD, AND IN TRUSTING THAT WE WILL CONTINUE TO SEE
BOTH OF YOU OFTEN. WITH WARMEST REGARDS, SINCERELY,
RICHARD NIXON. END TEXT.

I HOPE TO BE IN TOUCH WITH YOU AGAIN BEFORE MY DEPARTURE
FROM THE DEPARTMENT ON SEPTEMBER 3. ROGERS

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 AUG 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: n/a
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 JAN 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973STATE167322
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: O:RMWRIGHT
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19730820/aaaaaodg.tel
Line Count: 176
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ORIGIN SS
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: kelleyw0
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 JAN 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <16-Jan-2002 by reddocgw>; APPROVED <04 MAR 2002 by kelleyw0>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: XXX FOR AMBASSADORS FROM THE SECRETARY
TAGS: OGEN
To: PEKING
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005